



Trick-or-treaters would come up the driveway toward the front door (A), but there was a sign saying to go through the graveyard. I have a woodchip path bordered with 2x4s that runs from halfway up my driveway, through the front yard, and to the street. Gravestones are on both sides of the path. They'd enter the path at (B).

A string of rope lights broke off for them to follow, from (C) to (D). Gravestones were placed along to make it look more like a path. They'd enter the back of the garage at (D). Just to the left of the garage was a lifesize coffin, standing up. Nothing was in it because there didn't need to be. Most people thought there was, and that's what counts: the building of fear.

In the garage, it was very dark (people's #1 fear is the dark) except for various glow sticks that were taped (as arrows) to the hanging black-plastic walls in the garage. The black walls were used to cover my garage stuff (tools, lawnmower, etc) and to force them to walk where I wanted. There were three stations, each with black walls and backdrop and screening in front (hung from the ceiling) to prevent touching.

As they approached the first station (F), they'd notice a small pedal on the ground with glow sticks around it. When they hesitantly stepped on the pedal, it activated the prop: A white light on the floor pointing up (good shadow effects) would turn on and illuminate a skeleton sitting in a cage that was hanging from the ceiling. The trick-or-treaters would step on and off the pedal a few times and became comfortable with the pedal and the result, and moved on.

As they approached the second station (G), they'd step on the pedal with less hesitation. This time they activated both light and sound. A red light was used from waist high – closer to the prop because it wasn't as strong as white light, but still dark enough to assist in the reality of the prop. The sound was a painful groan (on a loop). The prop was the top half of a body hanging on the wall. The arms were up, tied with rope around the wrists and spread out a bit. He was wearing a button-up shirt. There were no legs. A home-made spine was visible, dripping blood.

As they approached the last station (H), there was no hesitation to activate the pedal to see what was going to happen next. Ahh...comfort comes with knowledge. This time they activated light, sound, and motion. The light was red, and from above. The sound was an electric current. The motion was a body in a prison outfit in an electric chair that was being electrocuted. He shook around for a few seconds....and then stood up! :-) It was a real person dressed to look like a fake person.

Trick-or-treaters weren't done yet! They followed the path into my house! They walked through the laundry room. I had curtains hanging to hide my stuff. The curtains were actually skull-and-crossbones shower curtains. Black lights were behind them. They entered my hall (again, curtains placed to prevent unnecessary wandering) and then the kitchen.

The kitchen table (J) had mostly skulls and bones. Stuff I didn't mind people touching. The kitchen counter (K) had more props, mostly packaged items. There were items as if packaged for sale at a meat counter, such as a heart, a hand, a brain, eyes, etc. The heart and hand were battery operated and moving inside their respective package.

I stood in spot (L), dressed as a skeleton chef/nanny. I was stirring eyeball soup and had a baby on my shoulder. I would face people as they entered, and then introduce myself as the servant for the skeleton family in the dining room. I would mention the baby, and turn to show it. It was a puppet, and was the highlight of the entire setup!

Trick-or-treaters made their way into the dining room (M) and they'd see two adult skeletons (one with a wig) and a child skeleton at a table for dinner. Many props were used on the table! You'll have to see the pictures. People would then leave through the front door (A).

How do I top this?!?!